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## WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1859.

28 All letters for the *National Era* must be addressed to Mrs. M. L. BAILEY, *National Era*, Washington, D. C.

The card in last week's paper in relation to Mr. Hopper's was published by Mr. D. R. Goodloe, and expresses his personal opinions, for which the Era is in no way responsible.

Owing to the crowded state of matter in our columns, the usual letter of Gail Hamilton is omitted this week.

### THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE.

The "Democratic" members held a caucus on Saturday night, and nominated Mr. Broome for Speaker. They made no other nominations.

The Republicans held an informal meeting on Saturday, but resolved to have no caucuses, and made no nominations. The vote on Saturday night, however, only shows the individual preferences of members. It is a notable fact, highly creditable to Mr. Corwin, that, while his colleagues Mr. Sherman in nomination, and thereby hoped the hopes which the "Democracy" indulged, that he would cause division in the Republican ranks.

It is especially gratifying to note the prompt withdrawal of Mr. Gove, when he ascertained that he was not the first choice of a majority of the Republican members.

These significant indications of Republican harmony caused the "Democratic" members to feel with equal, and a motion was immediately made on that side for an adjournment.

Failing in carrying the adjournment, by a large majority, their next move was to prevent a vote of irrelevant motions and speeches made during time. A brief sketch of the proceedings will be found in another column.

### THE EXECUTION OF JOHN BROWN.

We devote a larger portion of our column this week to the tragic end of John Brown. The accounts we publish are all from Pro-Southern sources. They attest his courageous superiority to death, and, by the testimony of his illustrious enemies, he met the trial of terror with a boldness, a firmness, and a contempt for death, if not plateness. The history of the world cannot present an example of such stoicism. Yet in his conduct there was no shadow of the affected indifference or levity of the desperado. On the contrary, he lived and died professing a profound allegiance to and dependence on Divine Providence, and his numerous letters written since he has been in prison show that he possessed an intimate knowledge of the Scriptures, which nothing but habitual and devout study for years could have given him.

We think that John Brown was a sincerely religious man, but that his duty of death was that of a Hebrew under the Mosaic dispensation, rather than a Christian. The whole tenor of the New Testament is opposed to violence, and it is a quoted question among theologians, whether self-defense is consistent with the spirit of the Gospel. But we presume that no respectable authority would for a moment assume the idea of aggressive violence against neighboring States and nations, although it were to right the wrongs of the oppressed. We have seen the few efforts that have been made to vindicate the conduct of Brown, but we cannot withdraw from his tribute to his memory which his humanity to the prisoners whom he captured, and his heroic behavior during the long weeks of his imprisonment, under sentence of death, are entitled.

### THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER.

The Republic well says that the Western Democracy in the House have betrayed their constituents in voting for Mr. Broome for Speaker, who is an enemy of the Homestead and Free-emption measures. It might have added, that he is hostile to river and harbor improvements and to a Pacific railroad. He also voted for the Leecompton宪法. Yet the Douglas men were to right the wrongs of the oppressed.

Brown's Last Words.—We are informed by a gentleman who conversed with Mrs. Brown after the execution of her husband, that she discloses his reported harsh accusations against Cook, which will be found in the first dispatch.

We may say, also, that the allusion to the capture of Capt. H. Clay, at least, was not made to his credit in the first instance. Let them read carefully the particulars we publish of the execution of John Brown, who on Friday last was hung for treason and rebellion. It is not too late to profit by his example; and we have hopes of them, as we have no reason to suspect any of them of being actuated by John Brown's indomitable courage.

### VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of Virginia met on Monday. Gov. Wise devoted a large portion of his message to the Harper's Ferry affair, which we will more particularly notice next week.

GOV. SEWARD ON FORBES.—The Paris correspondent of the *New York Times* makes the following statement:

"Mr. Seward arrived here five days ago, from his trip to Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and is in good health and spirits. He has had some adventures of a dramatic nature, and has found besides not a few obstacles to travel over in his tour. His health, however, is excellent. Mr. Forbes asked him for means for another object, which he refused, and that was all he ever saw of the individual in question. Mr. Seward goes home in the Arago, in December."

A TIMELY WARNING.—Democratic leaders are constantly threatening to commit treason if they are beaten in the approaching Presidential contest. Let them read carefully the particulars we publish of the execution of John Brown, who on Friday last was hung for treason and rebellion. It is not too late to profit by his example; and we have hopes of them, as we have no reason to suspect any of them of being actuated by John Brown's indomitable courage.

DANGER OF THE UNION.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Express* writes:

"In our political troubles I have never felt so safe as to the Union, but I am sorry to say, almost the conviction that it will be dissolved, and that even this session will witness its final dissolution. The result of the election of 1860, it is no longer a question, will be the five-eighths of the South who favor it. It is the sober-minded, conservative citizens of every class, judges, lawyers, merchants, readers, etc., who are the ones who are averse to secession, abhorred and abominated the howes now here, and the howes now there."

My words are true, and the howes now there, nothing of the master and the slave are on a level."

JOHN BROWN IS NO MORE! He went to his gallows with a serenity of soul that awed into silence the warlike multitude by whom he was surrounded. In the full strength of his years, he rode into that multitude, unfeared by all the power and pride and circumstance of war that enclosed him. So free from all alloy was his spirit that he was unconcerned by the execution of the heads of the face of the country, lit up as it was with the brightest sunshine. No word of passion or regret escaped him. And of all that multitude, no one beheld John Brown standing without a tremor on the God, but thrilled with terror, and in the fifteen minutes that then elapsed, lived a long life of fearful expectancy, while he stood calm and collected.

"What stronger breastplate than a heart unspotted?"

And thus it was this brave old man met his death, —not like the slaves, who waited and waited for their master to have compassion and set them free.

He was buried with the highest honors.

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the Union, they will lose all share in the territories, in the army and navy, and in the other property of the Union. As seceders, they will leave the Confederacy in full possession of all these appliances of power, and will go out of the dagger and the revolver, the champions of Slavery shrouded for joy, and sent all their sparse change—though they were never so great at money—into the aid the ruffians in their lawless aggressions upon Northern men.

When a Southern Representative in Congress assailed a Senator from Massachusetts, while sitting in his seat, with a cane, the Southern people of all parties shamed for joy, and overthrew the cowardly assailant with presents to soon all who would have raised their voices against the outrage. We doubt if twenty newspapermen of Washington uttered a word of censure of the foul deed.

But now that Northern men have made an aggression upon the South, now that the Southern

people are been gored, their tone is wonderfully changed.

A more innocent, law-abiding people were never heard of. The whole press of the South joins the chorus of condemnation, and threatens to dissolve the Union, if in the event of a successful resistance from the North.

But now that the South is the last country in the world to go to war; and a threat of seizing the capital, and expelling a Republican President, will be regarded as empty bravado, just as a similar threat coming from Mexico would be.

The following is taken from the leader of the *Newark Daily Herald*, and was published on Friday last, the day of execution, and it will be read with interest, for the contrast it presents between the time past and the present. The Ohio press referred to was Dr. Ballou's, who was three times thrown into the stocks outside of Boston, as we Western readers will doubtless recollect.

We say this in no feeling of disrepect for the courage of Southerners; but that they are surrounded by circumstances of embarrassment and peril which no courage or skill in war could disregard.

### MR. BUCHANAN ON THE SUPREME COURT.

For the last two or three years, the organs and advocates of Mr. Buchanan's Administration have been hurling denunciations at all who dare to doubt the infallibility of the Supreme Court. That gentleman, himself, set the example of intolerance, and derided in his inaugural speech the decision of the Supreme Court of Dred Scott had finally forced even the most ardent supporters of the Union to yield to the demand that Slavery exists in Kansas and Nebraska by virtue of the Constitution, and that all good citizens would at once acquiesce in the decision.

His organ in this city, then styled the *Union*, denounced as traitors and enemies of the Constitution all who dare to question the binding authority of the court in the premises.

Those who cannot wipe off the shame and disgrace which attaches to the ruffian brutality of the Kansas invasions, and the cowardice of the Massachusetts Senate, have no right to complain of the more insignificant outrage at Harper's Ferry. Let those who are without sin sit at the feet of John Brown.

He who can not bear to see a fugitive slave escape to freedom, will be compelled to yield to the demands of the slaves of Mexico.

A few weeks, as there are a few every crisis, will turn to kiss the hand of the South, and the Northern states will be compelled to yield to the demands of the slaves of Mexico.

Not less impressive will be the lesson to the Northern states, when the slaves of the South, who are still more impudent than the slaves of the North, will be compelled to yield to the demands of the slaves of Mexico.

The Virginians were not behind those of South Carolina in their appreciation of the gallantry of their masters; but they exacted a heavy toll of their slaves, and they were compelled to yield to the demands of the slaves of Mexico.

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